

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all previous versions of the claims.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Withdrawn) A kit for screening molecules having an anti-prion activity, comprising:
 - a yeast of phenotype;
 - an antibiogram; and
 - a prion curing agent in a sub-effective dose, wherein the yeast has the *adel-14* allele of the *ADE1* gene and an inactivated *ERG6* gene.
2. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 1, wherein the yeast is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.
3. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 1, wherein the prion curing agent is guanidium chloride.
4. (Withdrawn) A method for screening molecules having anti-prion activity, the method comprising:
 - a. producing *in vitro* a lawn of cells on a medium containing a sub-effective dose of a prion curing agent;
 - b. contacting the cells with a test compound according to the antibiogram method;
 - c. incubating the cells for approximately 2-4 days at approximately 20-25°C; and

d. evaluating the staining of the cell colonies,
wherein the cells comprise yeasts of [PS/+] phenotype having the *adel-14* allele of the *ADE1* gene and an inactivated *ERG6* gene.

5. (Withdrawn) The screening method of claim 4, wherein the yeast is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

6. (Withdrawn) The screening method of claim 4, wherein the curing agent is guanidium chloride.

7. (Withdrawn) The screening method of claim 4 further comprising:
e. incubating for approximately 2-4 days at approximately 2-6°C; and/or
f. carrying out a secondary screening test.

8. (Withdrawn) The screening method of claim 7, wherein the secondary screening test comprises:

constructing a strain of yeast in which the *ADE2* gene is under the control of the *DAL5* gene promoter;

producing *in vitro* a lawn of cells on a medium containing a sub-effective dose of a prion curing agent;

contacting the cells with a test compound according to the antibiogram method;

incubating the cells for approximately 2-4 days at approximately 20-25°C;

evaluating the staining of the cell colonies; and

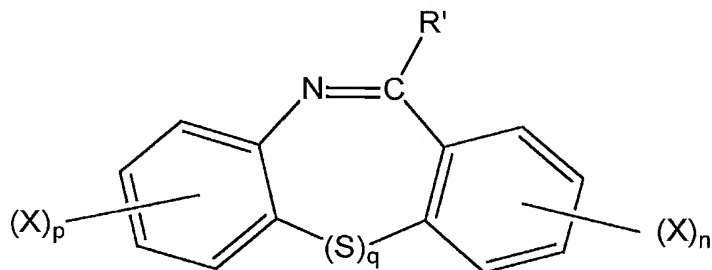
incubating for approximately 2-4 days at approximately 2-6°C.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Withdrawn) A method for treating neurodegenerative diseases involving protein aggregates, the method comprising:

administering the compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein R' is an H, NH₂, or NHR² group, wherein R² is an alkyl or alkylaminoalkyl chain with 1 to 10 carbon atoms, branched or unbranched,

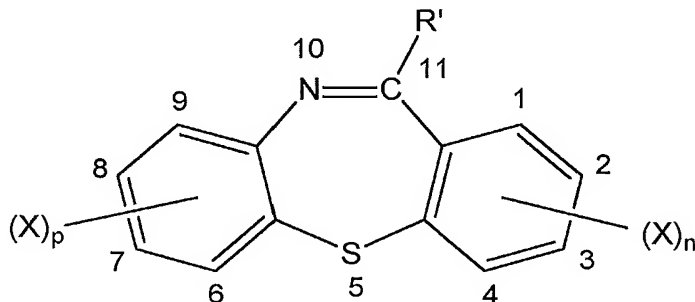
X represents F, Cl, Br, I, CF₃, SCH₃, OCH₃, OH, NO₂, COCH₃, CONH₂, COOH, or COOR³, where R³ is an alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2,

q is equal to 0 or 1.

12. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) A method for treating neurodegenerative diseases involving protein aggregates, the method comprising:

administering the compound of formula (III)



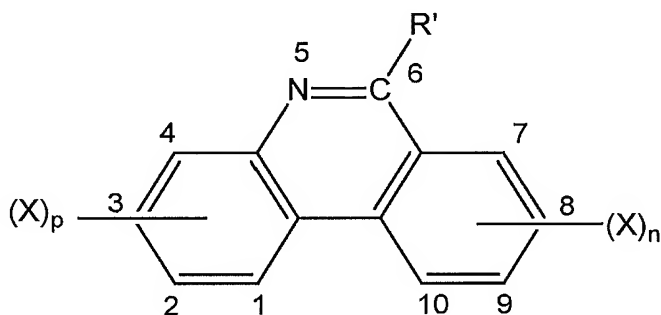
(III)

wherein R' represents an H, NH₂, NH-(CH₂)₃-N(CH₃)₂, or [[NH-CH(CH₃)- or (CH₂)₃-N(CH₂-CH₃)₂]] NH-CH(CH₃)-(CH₂)₃-N(CH₂-CH₃)₂ group,

X represents F, Cl, or CF₃,

p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2.

13. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) A method for treating neurodegenerative diseases involving protein aggregates, the method comprising:
administering the compound of formula (II)



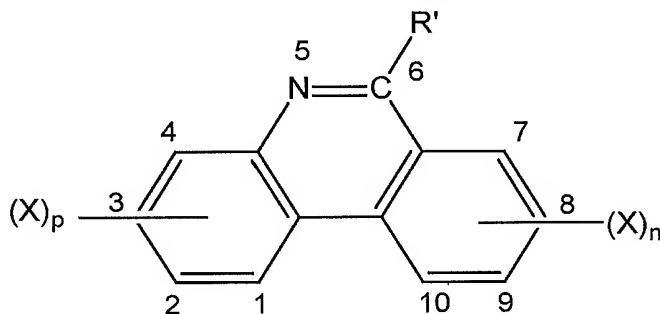
(II)

wherein R' represents an H, NH₂, NH-(CH₂)₃-N(CH₃)₂, or [[NH-CH(CH₃)- or (CH₂)₃-N(CH₂-CH₃)₂]] NH-CH(CH₃)-(CH₂)₃-N(CH₂-CH₃)₂ group,

X represents F, Cl, or CF₃,

p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13
 wherein R' represents an NH₂ group,
 X represents F, Cl, or CF₃,
 p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2.
15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the neurodegenerative diseases include: spongiform encephalopathies, Alzheimer's disease, and Huntington's disease.
16. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:
 a therapeutically effective quantity of at least one compound of formula (II)



(II)

wherein R' represents an H, NH₂, NH-(CH₂)₃-N(CH₃)₂, or [[NH-CH(CH₃)- or (CH₂)₃-N(CH₂-CH₃)₂]] NH-CH(CH₃)-(CH₂)₃-N(CH₂-CH₃)₂ group,

X represents F, Cl, or CF₃,

p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2,

in combination with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

17. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16
 wherein in the compound of formula (II), R' represents an NH₂ group,
 X represents F, Cl, or CF₃,
 p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2.

18. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment comprising the administration to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective dose of a pharmaceutical composition of claim 16.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered to a patient suffering from a neurodegenerative disease.

20. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment comprising the administration to a patient in need thereof of a therapeutically effective dose of a pharmaceutical composition of claim 17.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered to a patient suffering from a neurodegenerative disease.